

to do what is within our means to do. It is a commemoration of the conciliation of capacity and conscience, of power with prudence. It is a commemoration of our awareness of the terrifying levels to which conflict, once begun, can escalate. It is a commemoration of the resolve, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations barely 6 weeks earlier, to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person.

You have dedicated this ceremony to peace. And, without doubt, the introspection the horror of Hiroshima compelled has made our world a safer place. Machinery has been put in place to support nuclear controls and safeguards, to carry out the destruction of nuclear weapons, to ban nuclear testing. The nuclear nonproliferation treaty has been validated in perpetuity. It has signatories whose number falls only a few short of the membership of the United Nations itself. Given tact, reason, and understanding it should be possible to aspire to a truly universally regime. Such a regime becomes all the more necessary and compelling given the clear and unambiguous assertion by the Security Council at the highest political level in January 1992 that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

In 2 years we shall commemorate the 40th anniversary of an unfulfilled mission: The question of a comprehensive nuclear test ban, which first appeared on the agenda of the General Assembly in 1957. It would be an achievement well worth striving for. The progress being made towards a comprehensive test ban treaty must be enhanced and build upon. The vast potential for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be addressed and given realisation unhindered by its diversion for essentially combative ends. And it is clear that non nuclear-weapon states must be provided international security assurances that are legally binding.

These are some thoughts that come to mind on an occasion such as this. In Hiroshima hope has succeeded hate, determination despair. For a half a century you have lived with an awareness at first hand of what the phrases the world uses can really mean. Please share that awareness, that sense of the possibilities that we can and we must realise. The world owes you no less, nor you the world.¹

This is the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Excellencies, citizens of Hiroshima, this expression of the Secretary-General is what we at the United Nations want to do together with you, the citizens of Hiroshima and the people of Japan.

I thank you.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF KICKAPOO HIGH SCHOOL OF SPRINGFIELD, MO

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, today I would like to salute a high school from my hometown of Springfield, MO, that defines excellence in secondary education. Kickapoo High School has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the excellent secondary schools in America. Opened in 1971, Kickapoo will celebrate its 25th anniversary on October 25 after a rich history of academic achievement. Over 8,000 Missourians have graduated from the halls of Kickapoo High School. These students have attended some of America's finest universities including: Yale, Northwest-

ern, University of Chicago, Duke, and Washington University.

Kickapoo High School continues to be a leader in educational diversity, serving as a model, not just for southwest Missouri, but for the Nation as a whole. The needs of physically and academically challenged students have been served by the opening of a learning resource center and by establishing an orthopaedically handicapped program. In an era when test scores are emphasized for college admissions, Kickapoo High School's students exceeded the national average on the ACT by two points on each of the three sections. Students' educations are supplemented by advanced placement courses, where 80 percent of Kickapoo students earned scores, qualifying them for college credits upon enrollment.

A defining characteristic of a school is the honors bestowed upon it. Kickapoo High School had seven National Merit Scholar finalists and nine National Merit Commended Scholars in 1994 alone. For these achievements listed and many others not, I am pleased to honor Kickapoo High School on the 25th anniversary of its charter.

The teachers, students, administrators, and community of Kickapoo High School should be commended for their achievements and service to our Nation. All of those who have been affiliated with Kickapoo High School are charged with a duty to leave America as a better place. Kickapoo serves as an emblematic secondary educational institution and prime example of academic excellence in the United States of America.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, some 32 years ago, in the administration of John F. Kennedy, I became Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy Planning and Research. This was a new position. In this new position, I was nominally responsible for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. I say nominally out of respect for the independence of that venerable institution which long predated the Department of Labor itself. The then-commissioner, Ewan Clague, could not have been more friendly and supportive and in time I grew to know more of the field. At that time the monthly report of the unemployment rate was closely watched by capital and labor, as we would have said, and was frequently challenged. Committees regularly assembled to examine and debate the data. Published unemployment rates, based on current monthly survey methodology appeared, if memory serves, in 1948 and so the series was at most 14 years in place at this time. By contrast, the Consumer Price Index dated back to 1919. And yet, while the statisticians were increasingly confident of the accuracy by which they measured unemployment, they were never entirely happy about the CPI. Its computation was, and remains, a dif-

ficult and ever-changing effort. In particular, the statisticians worried that the Consumer Price Index was increasingly used as a surrogate for the cost-of-living index. They felt this would lead to great troubles as surely the CPI overstated inflation. I think they would have been even more alarmed to know that in the two decades that followed we would use the CPI to index some 30 percent of Government outlays and 45 percent of Government revenues.

This problem inevitably grew more salient at times of true inflation. Thus, on October 26, 1980, an article in the Business and Finance section of the Washington Post described the election difficulties President Carter was facing owing to double-digit inflation. The story noted "The consumer price index overstates the impact of inflation, the White House contends." As we know, it contended to no avail, but the difficulties with the CPI as a proxy for the cost of living continued.

In the spring 1981 issue of the Public Interest, Dr. Robert J. Gordon, now chairman of the department of economics at Northwestern University, wrote:

... the [United States] CPI is probably the single most quoted economic statistic in the world.

We are now slowly waking up to the further fact, well known in the economics and statistics communities, that the Consumer Price Index is not a measure of the change in the cost of living. It is so stated in a pamphlet published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics entitled "Understanding the Consumer Price Index: Answers to Some Questions":

Is the CPI a cost-of-living index?

No, although it frequently and mistakenly is called a cost-of-living index. The CPI is an index of price change only. It does not reflect the changes in buying or consumption patterns that consumers probably would make to adjust to relative price changes. For example, if the price of beef increases more rapidly than other meats, shoppers may shift their purchases away from beef to pork, poultry, or fish. If the charges for household energy increase more rapidly than for other items, households may buy more insulation and consume less fuel. The CPI does not reflect this substitution among items as cost-of-living index would. Rather, the CPI assumes the purchase of the same market basket, in the same fixed proportion (or weight) month after month.

Despite this caution from the agency that compiles the CPI, the index is used as a yardstick for adjusting Government benefits, including Social Security, and provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

And yet, it is now well recognized that changes in the CPI overstate the change in the cost of living.

The administration recognizes this fact.

Congress recognizes this fact.

And a Commission of eminent economists appointed by the Senate Finance Committee recognizes this fact.

In an October 3, 1994, memorandum entitled "Big Choices," Dr. Alice